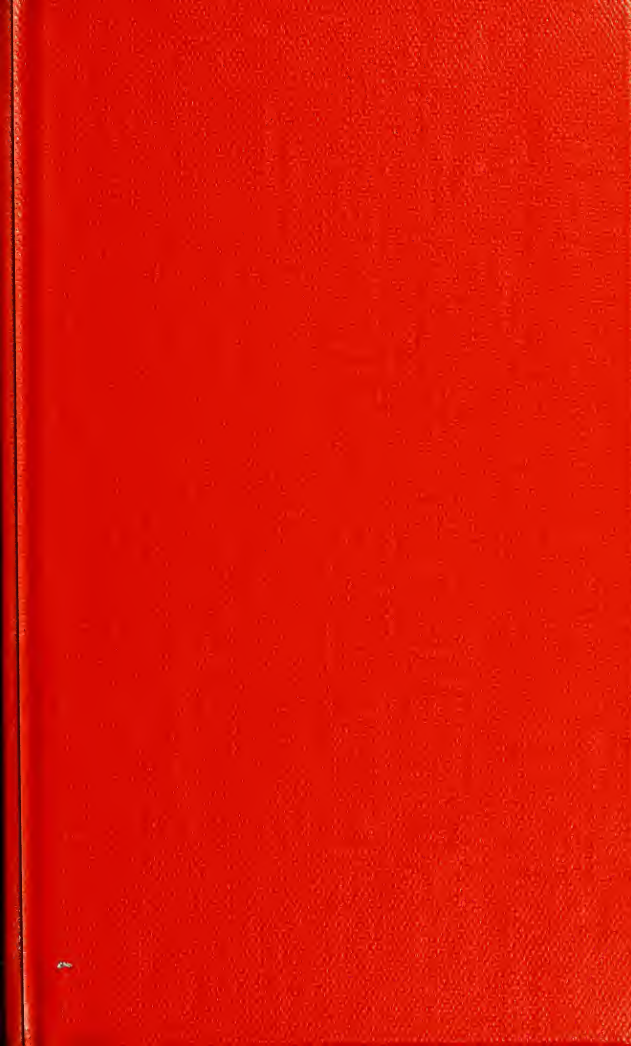




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MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH CONVENTION

OF THE

OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,

OF THE

STATE OF INDIANA,

HELD IN LADOGA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA, '

September 24th—28th, A. D.; 1852.

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MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTH CONVENTION

OF THE
OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD

OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA,



1998608

FIRST SESSION.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met in the Lutheran Church for the transaction of business, and united in singing a hymn and prayer.

The President being absent, the services were conducted by the Secretary.

The Secretary occupying the Chair, Rev. S. McReynolds was appointed Secretary, *pro tem*.

The roll was then called. The lay-delegates presented their certificates of appointment, and the following is a Catalogue of the Members of this body:

Pastors,

Rev. H. Wells,
" D. Smith,
† " S. Sayford,
† " A. H. Myers,
† " F. Templin,
" S. McReynolds,
" O. Brown,
" D. S. Altman,
" G. A. Exline,
" J. Geiger,
" A. F. Hills,
" J. Keller,
" S. P. Snyder,
" A. H. Scherer,

Post Office Address.

Columbia, Whitly co., Ind.
Louisville, Ky.
Middletown, Ind.
Sanfrancisco, Cal.
N. Manchester, Ind.
Camden, Carroll co., Ind.
Lafayette, Ind.
Richmond, Ind.
Berrien, Berrien co., Mich.
Indianapolis, Ind.
Indianapolis, Ind.
Columbus, Ind.
Charlottsville, Ind.
New London, Ind.

The following were received this Session :

Rev. E. R. Guiney,	Indianapolis, Ind.
„ D. Summers.	Jeffersontown, Ky.
„ J. C. D. Starck,	Louisville, Ky.
„ J. W. Sargent,	Indianapolis, Ind.

Lay Delegates.

From the charge of

Bro. J. M. Shaver,
„ G. Bausman,
„ D. Scholl,
„ H. Rhoads,
„ H. Price,
„ P. Brown,
„ G. Baker,
„ J. Miller,
„ H. Ohr,

Rev. H. Wells.
„ O. Brown.
„ D. S. Altman.
„ J. Geiger.
„ A. H. Scherer,
„ A. F. Hills.
„ S. P. Snyder.
„ J. Keller.
„ E. R. Guiney.

The President now read the following

REPORT:

BRETHREN : Through another Synodical year, the fostering care of our Gracious heavenly Father, has been extended over us, so that we are able to meet here for the purpose of deliberating upon the important affairs of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Although from other Synods a number of our beloved brethren have been called from their labors below, to their reward in heaven ; and some of the churches in our bounds mourn the loss of members, who since our last meeting have exchanged their seats in the church militant, for higher and happier ones in the church triumphant—yet our ministerial ranks have not been invaded by death, for which our heartfelt thanks are due to the Lord our Preserver and mighty Deliverer.

Our beloved and efficient brother Myers, the President of this Synod having removed to the Pacific, it becomes my duty according to the 10th Section of the 3rd Article of the Constitution to succeed him and discharge the duties of the President which I have tried to do, from the time of his removal early last Spring, up to this date and now proceed to perform his last duty for this Synodical year, by laying before you this brief report.

Lutheran Churches have been organized in our bounds this year, as follows :—Two by your Evangelist, one in Peru of forty members, and one in Cass Co. numbering fifteen members. Three by Rev. S. McReynolds in Carroll County, numbering about 60 members in all. And one by Rev. O. Brown in Wyandott, Tippecanoe Co., Ind.

The Rev. Messrs. Laitzle, Wolf and Howbert having removed into the bounds of other Synods have by their request been regularly dismissed from this body and the Rev. Exline by permission of the President has removed from Benton Ind. to Berrien Mich.

Rev. Templin being afflicted so that he could no longer perform the duties of a Pastor, resigned his charge last April. Thus several Charges are destitute of Pastors which Synod should try to supply.

In the following places houses of worship have been built this year for the Lutheran Church. One in Ladoga, Ind. One in Louisville, Ky., and one in Bartholomew Co., Ind.

In several of the Charges of this Synod the Lord has graciously revived his work, and many have been added to the Church. The Camden Charge has shared largely in this revival influence, her accessions numbering sixty. The Olive Branch Synod continues to have an encouraging increase of members, and we hope of vital godliness.—

Our Society for Home Evangelization having been organized in the spirit of prayer and humble reliance upon God, has been owned of Him, and signally blessed to the joy of many precious souls who now sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus ; and who but for this Society would not have found a home in the Lutheran Church. I therefore most heartily recommend a more united and unanimous effort by our Ministers and Churches to raise funds for our Evangelization Society, and that those ministers and people who have done so nobly in this good cause, do not relax their efforts.

I would also recommend action on the 15th Article of our Constitution ; and further, that the President, Secretary and Treasurer of Synod be elected to the same Offices in the Evan. Society from year to year.

May the Lord grant us the best Synodical meeting that we have ever enjoyed, and make our present Convention a blessing to this community,—Amen,

H. WELLS, *President*.

On motion,

The report was received, and placed among the papers for the action of Synod.

An election of Officers for the ensuing year was now held, and the following members were duly elected :

REV. H. WELLS, *President*.

„ O. BROWN, *Secretary*.

„ S. McREYNOLDS, *Treasurer*.

On motion—The Rev. D. Summers, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Miami. Also the Rev. E. R. Guiney, from the same Synod, upon presenting their Credentials of honorable dismission, were admitted to membership in this Synod.

On motion,

Rev. D. Smith—D. S. Altman, and the President, were appointed an Examining Committee, for the examination of applicants for Licensure, at the present Session of Synod.

Committees were now appointed to report upon various Documents and Papers requiring the action of Synod, as follows :

First Committee—Rev. S. McReynolds, Rev. A. F. Hills, and Bro. G. Bausman.

Second Committee—Rev. D. Smith, Rev. D. S. Altman and Bro. H. Ohr.

Third Committee—Rev. A. F. Hills, Rev. S. P. Snyder and Bro. P. Brown.

Fourth Committee—Rev. J. Geiger, Rev. J. Keller & H. Rhoads.

Fifth Committee—Rev. D. Summers, Rev. E. R. Guiney, and Bro. J. M. Shaver.

Sixth Committee—Rev. A. H. Scherer, Rev. S. McReynolds and Bro. H. Price.

Seventh Committee—Rev. D. S. Altman, Rev. D. Smith, and Bro. D. Scholl.

Eighth Committee—Rev. S. P. Snyder, Rev. J. Keller, and Bro. G. Baker.

On motion,

A committee was appointed to investigate the Constitution and applications of congregations, applying for membership in this body. Who are as follows : Rev. E. R. Guiney, Rev. J. Geiger, and Bro. H. Ohr.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to 2½ o'clock, P. M.

Closed with prayer by Rev. D. Smith.

SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, 2½ o'clock, P. M.

Synod convened, pursuant to adjournment, and was opened for business with prayer by Rev. J. Keller.

On motion,

The minutes of the previous Session were received and approved:

First Committee.

Now presented the following

R E P O R T :

Committee No. 1. To whom were assigned the duty of examining the Presidents annual report, would submit the following :

Whilst we regret that some of our clerical brethren have removed from our bounds, we hope that the Lord has assigned them fields of great usefulness ; and will ever smile upon, and bless their labors of love.

We rejoice in God over the glorious prosperity attending the labors of the members of Synod during the past year :—But in view of the destitutions in our bounds, we would recommend that Synod adopt some efficient measures for their speedy supply. What measures shall be employed for the accomplishment of this desirable object, we leave for you in your wisdom to determine.

We would here express our most unfeigned thanks to the great Head of the church for his guardian care over, and the unprecedented success granted to our Evangelization Society. And as we

know of nothing more appropriate upon this point, would most heartily recommend the adoption of the suggestions of the President's report:

Respectfully submitted,

S. McREYNOLDS,

A. F. HILLS,

GEORGE BAUSMAN.

On motion;

The report was accepted, and acted on by separate items, as follows:

1st Item—Relating to the removal of some of our clerical brethren from our bounds to other fields; met with a liberal accord:—

2nd Item—Relating to destitute congregations within our bounds;—was referred to the time and business of vacant congregations.—

3rd Item—Relating to the Evangelization Society:—Was referred to the time of acting upon "Missionary Business."—

The report as a whole, was now adopted.

Second Committee:

Now presented the following

R E P O R T :

Committee No. 2. Would respectfully report on the papers committed to them:

No. 1. Is a letter from the Rev. S. Sayford, in which he pleads indisposition both of person and family as the reason of his absence from Synod.—He also enclosed a collection of \$3.00 for Synodical purposes; and speaks of collections for the Home Missionary Society, to the amount of 15 or 18 dollars, which he will send to the President of Synod, at the risk of Synod.

Br. Sayford, desires to be excused for non attendance at this Convention.

Your committee recommend, that this brother be excused, and that we sincerely sympathise with him in his afflictions, hoping that he may speedily be restored to his family and the church.

No. 2. Are the minutes of the 4th Session of the "Olive Branch Synod," in which your Committee find the following items of unfinished business, viz: On page 22 a resolution of the renewal of the Rev. H. Well's Commission as Evangelist for one year from date, at a salary of \$200 for six months actual service to be performed in the following Counties:—Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Clinton, Howard, Cass, Miami, and Tipton, with the understanding, that he exert himself to the utmost of his ability, to collect funds for the Society in said district. Also a resolution that the brethren of this Synod explore as much territory, as possible during this synodical year, and report at our next Synodical Convention; and that their expenses be paid by this Society, provided, they do not exceed \$10. And that they be expected to organize auxiliary Societies wherever it is

possible :—Have the brethren complied with this resolution, and are they ready to report ?

Item 3rd.—Refers to the Delegates appointed to other Synods—Rev. Howbert to Miami Synod—Rev. F. Templin to the Wittenberg Synod—Rev. A. H. Myers to the Synod of Ohio—Rev. J. Keller to the Synod of Illinois—Rev. D. S. Altman to the Pittsburgh Synod—And Rev. S. McReynolds to the Synod of the South West.—Have these brethren attended to their duty ?

Page 23. We find the following Item, viz : a committee appointed, consisting of Revs. A. H. Myers, H. Wells, and Wm. G. Laitzle, to draft a Constitution for churches.—Has this committee complied, and are they ready to report ?

Page 24. Is a resolution requesting each Minister to preach at least two sermons during this Synodical year, in each of his congregations on the proper observance of the Lord's day. Have the brethren complied with this request ?

On Page 31 of the "Appendix No. A." We find a number of the names of the brethren who subscribed 1 and also \$10 to the "Olive Branch Missionary Society" not credited.—Have these brethren paid their Subscription ? if so, they should receive credit.

This is all your committee find necessary to report, all of which is herewith respectfully submitted to the action of this body.

D. SMITH,

D. S. ALTMAN,

HENRY OHR.

On motion,

The report was received, and special action had on its several Items, as follows :

1st. Relating to Bro. Sayfords letter—It was ordered that he be excused for non attendance at Synod—the reception of \$3 for Synodical purposes, acknowledged ;—and the President requested to correspond with him relative to the transmission of funds for the Home Missionary Society, now in the hands of Bro. Sayford.

2nd. Under the head of unfinished business in the Minutes of last Session, relating to the commission and remuneration of Rev. H. Wells, as Evangelist ;—was referred to Missionary business.

3rd. Relating to a resolution requiring the brethren to make Missionary explorations, and report at the present Session of Synod, was also referred, as above.

4th. Relating to Delegates appointed to Sister Synods, whose reports were received—excuses accepted—and the Delegates discharged, as follows :

Rev. Howbert, to Miami Synod—Rev. F. Templin to Wittenberg Synod—and Rev. Mayers to the Synod of Ohio; all being absent, no report was given.

Delegats to the Illinois Synod

R E P O R T S :

Your Delegats to the Synod of Illinois, did not meet with the brethren of said Synod, for the reason that he was sick at the time of the

meeting of said Synod ; and did not write a letter as he did not think of it at the proper time.

Yours in delinquency this time,

J. KELLER.

Delegate to Pittsburgh Synod

R E P O R T :

Your Delegate appointed to the Pittsburgh Synod respectfully reports, that the infancy of his congregations rendered his absense at that time altogether inexpedient. He however wrote a letter to the President expressing the fraternal feelings entertained by this body to their body, and expressing the hope that they might be reciprocated.

D. S. ALTMAN,

Delegate to S. of S. West.

Your Delegate appointed to attend the meeting of the Synod of the South West.—Would most respectfully report, as follows :

That he has not in person met with these brethren, mainly from the fact that the Synod of the South West, held its meeting so near the time of the meeting of this body that he could not meet with both, and held it as a sacred duty to give preference to the Olive Branch. But a friendly letter was addressed to the Secretary, to which a favorable response has been received, and as there are some things contained in this letter that may be interesting, it is herewith submitted to the consideration of Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

S. McREYNOLDS.

5th Item.—Relating to a committee appointed, to draft a constitution for our churches, whose report, as follows, was adopted :

R E P O R T :

The committee who were appointed last Synod to prepare a constitution for churches, respectfully suggest, that the Formula for the government and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, published by the General Synod, with a few by-laws such as each church may see proper to make for its own convenience and prosperity is all that is necessary.

We would therefore recommend to our churches the adoption of said Formula for their discipline, and that in preparing the few additional rules which they may deem expedient for their local congregational regulations, they take care not to adopt any clause that would conflict with any part of said Formula.

Respectfully submitted by

H. WELLS.

The other members of the committee being absent.

On motion,

Synod adjourned, to meet to morrow morning at 8½ o'clock A.M.

Closed with prayer by Bro. H. Ohr.

THIRD SESSION.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 8½ o'clock, A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment Synod convened, and after a short season of devotional exercises, was opened for business with

Prayer by Rev. A. H. Scherer.

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and approved.

On motion,

Bro. David Reitzel of the Bethel Congregation was received as a Commissioner to this body.

The special action on the report of committee No. 2 was now continued.

6th Item.—Relative to the resolution of preaching on the “Observance of the Sabbath.” The roll was called, and the brethren successively reported.—When it was ordered that they be acquitted, for discharging this duty *in part*, and recommended to continue the inculcation of the claims of the Sabbath whenever expedient.

7th Item.—Relating to the credits of subscriptions to the Olive Branch Missionary Society,

On motion,

Was referred to Missionary business.

The report was now engrossed, and adopted.

Third Committee.

Presented the following

R E P O R T :

Your committee to whom were referred papers No. 3 would report the following :

Item 1st.—Is a copy of the minutes of the fifth annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the South West, held in Pilot Grove Church, Carroll Co., Tenn., on the 20th day of September 1851. This body consists of twelve Ministers, twenty-nine Congregations, and one thousand-three-hundred and thirty Communicants. This body manifests a laudable zeal for the prosperity of the Master's Kingdom.

Item 2nd.—Is a copy of the Minutes of the first Session of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Northern Illinois, held at Cedarville, Stephenson co., Ill., from the 18th to the 23rd of Sept. 1851. This Synod is composed of eight Ministers, twenty Congregations, and six hundred and fifty-three Communicants. These brethren take a deep interest in the development of benevolence, and in the support of Missions in their bounds. May the great Head of the church give them much success in their glorious work.

Respectfully submitted

A. F. HILLS,
S. P. SNYDER,
PETER BROWN.

On motion,
The above report was engrossed and adopted.

Fourth Committee

Presented the following

R E P O R T :

Committee No. 4. Respectfully report the following :

Item 1st.—Is the minutes of the Synod of West Pennsylvania, convened in Newville, Cumberland co., Pa., Sept. 25th 1851.

This Synod appears to be in a prosperous condition, having 42 ordained Ministers, 6 Licentiates, and 15,091 Communicants.

The Officers are Rev. Prof. M. Jacobs, President, Rev. B. Sadtler, Secretary, and Rev. S. R. Boyer, Treasurer. On page 18 of the minutes we find in the report of committee No. 10, in reference to the last Will and Testament of Mr. Michael Klinefelter, who bequeathed \$3,000 to be placed at interest, for the education of the Children of the Congregation of which he was a member, and the education of indigent young men for the gospel Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the interest of said amount being equally divided between these objects.

Your committee approve of this noble example, therefore resolved, that we recommend it to our members for imitation.

Item 2nd.—Is the proceedings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Miami, convened in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 14th, 1852. This Synod is composed of 17 ordained Ministers, 5 Licentiates, and 2,339 Communicants. The Officers are Rev. Prof. M. Diehl, President, Rev. W. C. Barnett, Secretary, and Rev. P. Rizer, Treasurer. This body is in a prosperous condition. Bro. E. R. Guiney was appointed Delegate to this Synod.

Respectfully submitted

J. GEIGER,
JACOB KELLER,
H. RHOADS.

On motion,

The report was accepted, and after special action upon its several parts, was engrossed, and adopted.

Fifth Committee.

Presented their report which

On motion,

Was received and re-committed.

Sixth Committee

Reported the following : which

On motion, was received and accredited

R E P O R T.

Committee No. 6. Your committee appointed to examine the Minutes of the fifty-sixth Session of the Evan. Luth. Ministerium of the State of New-York, and adjacent states and countries, respectfully submit the following report. This large and respectable body held its fifty-sixth Convention at *Saddle River, Bergen co., N. J.*, Sept. 6th, 1851.

It is composed of 46 Ministers, and (according to the Parochial Report) of 46 Congregations. The reports give 2164 Infant Baptisms, and 33 Adults, 488 Confirmations, and admitted 107 from other Churches. Communicants 10,251, Sunday Schools 29 with 1663 scholars. The reports also show contributions made for Missionary and educational purposes to the amount of \$606.14.

The Officers were :

REV. WILLIAM D. STROBEL, D. D., *President.*

„ WILLIAM N. SCHOLL, *Secretary.*

„ JACOB C. DUY, *Treasurer.*

The Minutes show that this body of divines are faithfully engaged in the work of their "Lord & Master," and that the spirit of revivals has been among them, and many souls were converted to God. We congratulate this body upon the success which has crowned their labors, and express our fraternal feelings and regard toward them.

A. H. SCHERER,

S. McREYNOLDS,

H. PRICE.

Seventh Committee

Submitted the following report which was received and adopted by items, to wit :

R E P O R T.

Committee No. 7. Respectfully report, that the package placed in their hands contains :

1st.—A number of copies of the twenty-eighth (28.) annual report of the "American Sunday School Union." In regard to these documents, your committee are gratified with the encouraging success which has attended the efforts of this Society ; and whereas this institution is destined under God, to accomplish much good to the rising generation ; therefore, resolved that we heartily rejoice in the prosperity of this Society, and highly approve of the efforts made, to establish sabbath schools in all the destitute places of our country.

2nd.—Is a Package of Catalogues and subjects connected with the Sunday School Union; for which we return the Agent J. W. McIntyre, our grateful acknowledgements.

3rd.—Is a letter from Bro. D. Smith, our Missionary in Louisville, Ky, but as this letter contains items that properly belong to Missionary Business, it is therefore referred accordingly, and recommended to be read before the whole body.

Respectfully submitted,

D. S. ALTMAN,
D. SMITH,
D. SCHOLL.

The above report was then engrossed and adopted.

Eighth Committee

Presented a report, which was received, and re-committed, and Rev. D. S. Altman, appointed Chairman of said Committee.

Committee on Constitutions and Applications of churches, reported the following, which was accepted, amended and adopted

R E P O R T :

Your Committee appointed to examine the Constitutions of Congregations applying for membership into this body. Would respectfully report as follows :

1st — Is the Constitution of Pisgah Church.

2nd—Is the Constitution of Ebenezer Church.

3rd—Is the Constitution of Bethel Church, all of Carroll Co., Ind.

4th—Is the Constitution of Peru Church.

5th—Is the Constitution of Tabor Cong, Cass Co., Ind.

6th—Is the Constitution of Wyandott Congregation, Tippecanoe Co., Indiana. Accompanied with an application to be received into connection with this Synod.

Your committee have carefully examined said Constitutions, and find nothing in them conflicting with the Constitution of the Synod. Therefore *Resolved*, that they be received into connection with this body.

E. R. GUINEY,
J. GEIGER,
HENRY OHR.

Eighth Committee

Now presented the following, which was received and accredited.

R E P O R T :

Committee No. 8. Respectfully report that the package placed in their hands contains 150 Tracts published by the American Tract

Society, designed for distribution among the Ministers of this body ; which have been accordingly distributed.

Your committee in the name of this Synod tender their acknowledgment to the generous Donors. Respectfully submitted,

D. S. ALTMAN,
S. P. SNYDER,
JACOB KELLER,
G. R. BAKER.

Fifth Committee.

Now reported, as follows, which was received and accredited :

R E P O R T :

Your committee No. 5 present the following report :

No. 1.—Is a copy of the Minutes of the Fifteenth annual Session of the Frankean Evangelical Lutheran Synod, convened at Carlisle, Schoharie Co., N. Y., June 3rd, 1852. Its Officers are Bishop G. W. Hemperley, President ; H. L. Dox, Secretary ; P. Wieting, Treasurer. The Parochial reports show an aggregate of 19 Bishops, 2 Preachers, 43 Churches, 2,898 Members. Contributions : For Foreign and Domestic Missions \$428.71—for Synodical purposes \$79.89.

No. 2.—Is a copy of the Minutes of the Twenty-second annual Convention of the Evangelical Synod of Virginia, held at Harrisonburg, Rockingham Co., Virginia, May 13., 1852.

The Officers are Rev John F. Campbell, President ; Rev. X. J. Richardson, Secretary ; Rev. T. Miller, Treasurer. The following are some of the Statistics: Ministers 23, Congregations 49, Communicants 2,435, Contributions for Home Missions \$290.93, Foreign Missions \$386.86, Education \$179.87, Local objects \$3,382.46, Benevolent objects out of the charge \$247.50, Synodical Treasury \$96.25, Total \$4,583.87.

These Minutes contain nothing claiming the special attentions of this Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

D. SUMMERS,
E. R. GUINEY,
J. M. SHAVER.

The Chair appointed the following Committee to audit the Treasurers Report : Rev. S. McReynolds and A. H. Scherer.

A letter from Rev. F. Templin was read before Synod, and his absense excused.

On motion,

And the presentation of a certificate, by Rev. D. S. Altman—Rev. Prof. F. W. Conrad, was unanimously received a member of this body.

A letter was received from Rev. G. Wolf, who was appointed a Delegate to our Synod, from the Illinois Synod, and the following resolution adopted :

Resolved, that, owing to our fraternal regard for the Illinois Synod, we exceedingly regret the illness of Bro. Wolf, which prevented his meeting with us.

On motion,

Synod adjourned, to Monday Morning, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Rev. A. F. Hills.

FOURTH SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 27th, MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, A. M.

After the usual devotional exercises Synod was opened with prayer by Bro. Peter Brown.

The Minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

Bro. B. F. Hills from the Columbia charge being present. It was moved, that Synod rejoice in the presense of Bro. Hills in our midst.

A letter from Rev. Prof. Conrad was handed in, and refered to the following committee for action : Rev. D. Smith, Rev. D. S. Altman, and Rev. S. McReynolds.

On motion,

A call for Parochial reports was now made and received.—(Vide Table.)

The Committee on the Treasurers Report, reported as follows, which was accepted and adopted.

R E P O R T.

Your committee to whom was refered the Treasurers report, respectfully submit the following. We have examined said report and find the amount received by the Treasurer to be \$61.14. Of which he paid out on accounts outstanding, at the time of the last meeting os Synod \$15.79. Also for printing the Minutes of last Session \$41.00 leaving a ballance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$4.35.

Respectfully submitted,

S. McREYNOLDS,

A. H. SCHERER,

VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

The roll was called and the brethren reported as follows :

Rev. D. Smith, reported vacant congregations in Lanesville and Saltsburg.

Rev. E. R. Guiney, reported the Bethel congregation in Hendricks Co., Ind., as vacant.

Rev. S. P. Snyder, reported the *West River* congregation, in Wayne co., as vacant.

Rev. G. A. Exline, reported Bro. Laitzle's late charge in South Bend, St. Joseph's co., as vacant.

The President reported the *Ladoga* charge in Montgomery co., as vacant.

Also, the *Peru* charge in Miami co., Ind.

On motion,

The 3rd Item of the report of committee No. 2, relating to Ministerial explorations, was passed by hearing verbal reports from the brethren as follows :

Bro. Smith, reported vacancies at N. Albany, Salem, Saltsburg, Johnstown, and various other points, where members are found and congregations may be established.

Bro. Altman, mentioned several points of vacancy in Wayne co.

Bros. Keller, Geiger, and Scherer, reported various points of interest.

Reference may be made to the above mentioned brethren.

On motion,

Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. E. B. Guincy,

F I F T H S E S S I O N .

SEPTEMBER 27th, MONDAY, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met.

Prayer by Rev. D. Summers.

Minutes of the previous Session were read, corrected, and approved.

The committee appointed to report on the letter of Rev. Prof. Conrad presented the following

R E P O R T :

Your committee to whom has been referred the letter of the Rev. Prof. Conrad, would respectfully report, that inasmuch as said letter has special reference to matter pertaining to Synod, it be read, and acted upon by said body,

Your committee would however take leave to offer the following Resolutions, viz :

1st—That this Synod cordially approve of the plan proposed by the Board of Wittenberg College, to publish a Western Church Paper ; and that we appoint a publishing committee of two persons, to co-operate with similar committees appointed by other Synods, to bring to a speedy consumation so desirable, and praiseworthy an object in our church.

2nd, *Resolved*, that we bid the brethren of Springfield, God speed in this enterprize, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to sustain a Western Lutheran Paper.

3rd, *Resolved*, that we as a Synod unite with the Wittenberg College, and elect our quota of Directors to the Board of Managers.

Respectfully submitted

D. SMITH,
D. S. ALTMAN,
S. McREYNOLDS.

The report was accepted, special action had on its several items, and adopted as a whole.

On motion, Synod proceeded to

MISSIONARY BUSINESS.

The Secretary of the Home Evangelization Society presented the following report, which was accepted and adopted :

Officers and Members of the "Society for Home Evangelization":

BRETHREN !

Your Secretary respectfully reports, that since the last annual meeting, (held in October last) the reports have been received, to wit : — One from Rev. H. Wells, Evangelist, marked : "A", and one from Rev. S. McReynolds, Secretary of Camden Auxiliary Society, marked : "B", both of which are herewith presented for your consideration and action. Respectfully submitted,

HENRY OHR, *Secretary*.

On motion,

Item 3rd, of the report of committee No. 1, and referred to Missionary Business, relating to a more unanimous effort to raise funds for the Evangelization Society, was adopted.

Also :

Item 2, in report of committee No. 2, and relating to the commission and remuneration of the Evangelist, was now adopted, with the following report of contributions by the Evangelist, to wit :

Received from	Camden Charge	\$45.00
"	" Columbia	14.00
"	" Middletown	12.00
"	" Peru	14.25
"	" Hickory Grove	7.00
"	" Ladoga	32.80
"	" New Castle	6.50
"	" Rev. F. Templin	10.00
"	" A. F. Hills	15.00
"	" D. Summers	5.00
"	" J. Keller	10.00
"	" A. H. Myers	10.00
"	" J. Geiger	10.00
"	" A. H. Scherer	2.00
"	" Mr. Hoover	1.00
"	" Lutheran Observer	10.00

On motion,

Item 7th, of report of 2nd Committee relating to credits of Subscriptions for the O. B. M. Society, was corrected and adopted.

On motion,

Synod went into an election of Officers for the H. Evan. Society, when the Officers of Synod were chosen the officers of said Society.

It was further moved, and Bros. J. M. Shaver, H. Rhoads, and Rev. A. H. Scherer appointed Vice-Presidents.

On motion,

A Subscription was opened for annual membership in the Society of Home Evangelization. (Vide Appendix No. "A.")

On motion,

Synod adjourned to 8½ o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by J. Miller.

SIXTH SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 8½ o'clock, A. M.

Synod convened, and after the usual devotional exercises, was opened for business, with prayer by Rev. David Smith.

Minutes were read and approved.

On motion,

Bro. Price was granted leave of absense from the further sessions of Synod.

On motion,

Synod went into an examination of the Licentiates, and Applicants for Licensure.

On motion,

The examination closed, and Synod adjourned to 1 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. S. P. Snyder.

SEVENTH SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 1 o'clock, P. M.

Pursuant to adjournment Synod convened.

Prayer by Rev. A. H. Scherer.

Minutes were read and approved.

On motion,

Missionary business was now resumed.

A verbal report was now made by the Evangelist of his labors of the past year, which was accepted.

On motion,

It was ordered, that we as a Synod express our warmest approbation of the services of the Evangelist.

And further moved,

That the Rev. H. Wells be continued for six Months, as Evangelist, with a salary of \$200.00.

On motion,

The following resolution was adopted :

In view of the Miss. labors of Bro. D. Smith, resolved, that we appropriate \$15.00 to his support, to be paid out of the Treasury of the Evangelization Society of this Synod, and that an order be granted on the Treasurer by the Executive Committee for said amount.

On motion,

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, that the funds raised in our bounds, for the Miss. Union, be transferred to the Evangelization Society.

On motion ordered,

That the Executive Committee be instructed to procure a Missionary, to serve not less than three, nomore than six Months.

E D U C A T I O N .

On motion ordered,

That a Committee be appointed to draft a Constitution and By-laws for an Education Society, and report at our next Synodical Convention.

Committee are as follows : Rev. D. S. Altman, Rev. J. Keller, and Rev. E. R. Guiney.

On motion,

The following notice was ordered to be spread on the Minutes, to wit :

I propose the following alteration to the Constitution of "The Society for Home Evangelization" in the bounds of the Olive Branch Synod, to be acted upon at the next regular meeting of the Society :

That Article VI. of said constitution be so altered, as to read : Every person who pays one dollar annually, to the Treasurer, shall be a member ; and every person paying five dollars at any one time shall be a Patron, and any person (or persons in behalf of one person) paying ten dollars at any one time, or such an amount taken in connection with former payments, as would make ten dollars, shall be a life member.

S. McREYNOLDS.

On motion,

The following resolutions were received, and adopted by special action, to wit :

Whereas, the evil of intemperance is a great barrier to the success of the Gospel, and is continually increasing, therefore :

Resolved, that this Synod consider it a disciplinable offence for a member of the Church to use intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Resolved, as the sense of this Synod, that a Law similar in its general features to that recently enacted in the State of Maine, prohibiting the sale of all intoxicating drinks as a beverage, would be an immense blessing to the people of this State.

Resolved, that we, the members of this Synod, pledge ourselves, to use all practicable and proper means, between this time, and the adjournment of next Legislature of the State of Indiana, for procuring the enactment of such a Law.

On motion, it was,

Resolved, that the Treasurer be authorized to pay to Bro. Wells, the sum of \$2.00 for Certificates of Ordination and Licensure, Postage and stationery for the present Session of the Olive Branch Synod.

On motion ordered,

That, Synod now go into an election of a Publishing Committee, for a Western Church Paper, which resulted as follows; Rev. Daniel Summers and Rev. Hugh Wells.

On motion,

Synod elected the following Directors to the Board of Wittenberg College :

For four years :—	REV. H. WELLS,
„ „ „ —	MR. HENRY OHR,
„ two „ —	REV. D. S. ALTMAN,
„ „ „ —	DR. BARNETT. •

On motion,

An election was held for Delegates to the General, and Sister Synods.

DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD.

CLERICAL.

Principals.

REV. D. SMITH,
„ D. S. ALTMAN,

Alternates.

REV. S. McREYNOLDS,
„ O. BROWN,

Lay.

MR. H. STREIT,
„ G. D. STAATS,

MR. B. SHIRK,
„ BURRIS MOORE,

DELEGATES TO SISTER SYNODS.

REV. E. R. GUINEY,	to	Wittenberg Synod,
„ S. McREYNOLDS,	„	Miami „
„ D. SUMMERS,	„	South West „
„ G. A. EXLINE,	„	Northern Ill. „
„ J. KELLER,	„	Pittsburgh „
„ O. BROWN,	„	Illinois „
„ J. GEIGER,	„	Eng. Synod of Ohio.

On motion,

Synod made choice of the *time* and *place* of its next Session, as follows :

Place—Indianapolis, Ind,

Time—Thursday before the first Sabbath in September of 1853,
9 o'clock, A. M.

On motion ordered,

To publish 500 copies of the Minutes in English, and 100 in German.

Ordered, that the Secretary publish an abstract of the Minutes in the Lutheran Observer.

On motion,

Resolved, that Bro. Altman tender the thanks of Synod to the Citizens of Ladoga and vicinity, for their kind hospitality exercised towards us as a Synod while in their midst.

The Chair appointed the following Brethren to preach on various subjects at the next meeting of Synod, to wit :

<i>Subjects.</i>	<i>Principals.</i>	<i>Alternates.</i>
On Missions,	REV. D. S. ALTMAN,	REV. D. SUMMERS,
„ Education,	„ PROF. CONRAD,	„ O. BROWN,
„ Ordination,	„ D. SMITH,	„ S. McREYNOLDS.

The following nominations of the Chair, were confirmed by Synod, as a Committee of Examination, to wit :

REV. D. SMITH, REV. O. BROWN, REV. S. McREYNOLDS.

The Minutes of Synod were now read, approved, and adopted as a whole.

On motion,

Synod adjourned to meet at the time and place, aforesaid.

Closed with prayer by Rev. E. R. Guiney.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

The following is the order of religious exercises during the Session of Synod.

Thursday Eve. 23rd Sept., Sermon, by D. S. Altman, Gen. 5:24.
 Friday Eve. 24th, Synodical Sermon, „ S. McReynolds, Acts 20:28.
 Sat. 25th, 2 o'clock, „ „ E. R. Guiney, Deut. 32:31.
 „ „ Eve. „ „ A. F. Hills, Matt. 5:8.
 Sabb. 26th, 10 o'clock, „ „ D. S. Altman, Matt. 19:27
 „ „ Eve., „ „ J. Geiger, Ex. 23:2.
 Mon. Eve., 27th, Mission Address „ D. Summers.
 Tues. Eve., 28th, Ordination Sermon „ O. Brown, 2. Tim. 4:2.

On Sabbath afternoon, after an appropriate address by Bro. D. Smith, the Sacrament was administered to the Members of Synod, in which delightful exercise they were joined by a large number of members in the Ladoga Charge, and among whom were some from other denominations ; all of whom, we trust could say : “It is good for us to be here.”

Thus closed the fifth Synodical Convention of the “Olive Branch.” A spirit of brotherly-love, and compromise, ruled its deliberations, throughout its Session.

May the Lord extend his watchful care over the members and interest of the Olive Branch, until her next Convention, and prosper her efforts to the glory of His name and the Salvation of His people.

O. BROWN, *Secretary.*

SESSION OF THE MINISTERIUM.

FIRST SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 24th, 11 o'clock, A. M.

Pursuant to a resolution of Synod the Ministerium met, and was opened with prayer by Rev. D. S. Altman.

The Licenses, Journals and Sermons of Licentiates, were presented and placed in the hands of the following Committees :

Committee No. 1.

Rev. S. McREYNOLDS, Rev. D. S. ALTMAN, & Rev. E. R. GUINEY.

Committee No. 2.

Rev. E. R. GUINEY, Rev. D. SMITH, & Rev. D. S. ALTMAN.

Committee No. 3.

Rev. D. SMITH, Rev. S. McREYNOLDS, & Rev. O. BROWN.

On motion,

The Ministerium adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

SECOND SESSION.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Ministerium convened and was opened with prayer, by Rev. O. Brown.

Minutes read. and approved.

Moved and ordered,

That the Applicants for Licensure be now examined, before the Ministerium only.

On motion,

The Examining Committee adjourned to Monday 8 o'clock, A. M.

On motion,

The Ministerium adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. D. S. Altman.

THIRD SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 27th, 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Ministerium convened.—Prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

Minutes read and accredited.

Committee No. 1., presented the following

R E P O R T :

Your committee to whom were handed papers No. 1 respectfully submit the following report :

1st.—Is the journal of J. Geiger a Licentiate of this body, which shows (though imperfectly kept,) that he has been engaged in preaching the Gospel ; but gives no criterion by which to judge of the character of his discourses.

2nd.—His Sermon (subject: the Trinity) which is lengthy and tolerably well composed. In doctrine it is sound—in arrangement good—in connection natural—and in proof texts abundant.—Your committee regret that Bro. Geiger did not present a number of *Skeletons*, that we might be enabled to judge of his general preaching qualities.

3rd.—His License, which is now at the disposal of Synod, accompanied with an attestation of his doctrine and conduct by the Officers of his charge, which we suppose is intended as an application for ordination.

4th.—The journal of A. F. Hills, also a Licentiate of this body, showing that he has been engaged in the "Masters Work." This document, which is brief, is accompanied with a large number of skeletons, which are well arranged, and if properly filled up, and delivered with energy, would be effectual in the promotion of vital godliness.

5th.—His Sermon, (subject: the Work and Offices of Christ.) This Document evinces study and research, much attention to the rules of punctuation, and an extensive acquaintance with the Word of God ; and is calculated to exert a beneficial influence on all who may hear it.

6th.—His License together with a petition signed by the Officers of his Charge, requesting his Ordination by Synod.

Resolved, that these Brethren be examined before the Ministerium, and if found to possess the necessary qualifications, that they be ordained.

S. McREYNOLDS,
E. R. GUINEY,
D. S. ALTMAN.

The report was accepted and adopted.

Committee No. 2 reported the following, which was adopted :

R E P O R T.

The second committee would respectfully report as follows :

1st Item is the Sermon of Bro. S. P. Snyder. This document shows that this bro. has given the subject considerable study and research. His Sermon is homiletically arranged, and exhibits an extensive acquaintance with the Scriptures.

Your committee advise Bro. Snyder to pay more attention to orthography and Penmanship.

2nd Item is the journal of Bro. Snyder which shows that he has been zealously engaged in preaching the Gospel of Christ. Your committee would recommend him to give special attention to the keeping of his journal.

3rd Item is the Sermon of Bro. A. H. Scherer.

His Sermon breaths a proper spirit, it evinces that the brothers mind is imbued with proper principles, and an extensive acquaintance with the Word of God. Your Committee would recommend, that the brother pay particular attention to the homiletical arrangement of his Sermons.

Resolved, that these two brethren be examined before the Ministerium, and if found to possess the necessary qualification, that they be ordained.

4th Item is the ordination of Rev. Thomas W. Sargent of the Methodist Episcopal Church which we submit to the Ministerium.

5th Item is a letter from a Congregation at Bethel, Hendricks Co., Ind., which we submit to the Ministerium.

E. R. GUINEY,
D. S. ALTMAN,
D. SMITH.

On motion,

The Ministerium adjourned.

Prayer by Rev. D. Smith.

FOURTH SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Ministerium met, and opened with prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

Minutes read and accredited.

Committee No. 3 reported, which was accepted and adopted :

REPORT. 1998608

Your committee appointed to examine Documents No. 3, respectfully report, that said documents are the journal, License, and a number of sketches, of the Rev. J. Keller of the Columbus Charge, Ind. From this journal it appears that this brother has been very industrious, both in preaching and teaching a common School. His journal has been very minutely kept, and evinces a commendable degree of improvement, both in style and the art of Sermonizing. He has however failed to present a written Sermon, for inspection.

For this neglect he assigns want of time and Indisposition, &c. Your committee recommend this bro. to the clemency of the Ministerium, and after an examination to renew his License, or ordain him, as the wisdom of your body may see proper.

Document No. 4, are the journal, License and a number of sketches, and one Sermon of the Rev. G. A. Exline. This brother's journal has been tolerable well kept,—and his sketches show a decided improvement in style, and art of Sermonizing, but manifests great room for improvement in Grammer, Spelling, and Punctuation. His Sermon—"on the Government of God"—shows considerable originality, and if properly delivered, calculated to produce a desirable effect.

Your committee also recommend this brother for examinations, and if his qualifications be such as the Ministerium require, that he be ordained.

No. 5. Are two Sermons from the Rev. J. C. D. Stark of Louisville Ky. These Sermons are sound in doctrine, well arranged, and the subjects fully and logically discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

D. SMITH,
D. S. ALTMAN,
O. BROWN.

The examining committee made report :

We the undersigned examining committee, appointed, to examine the Rev. C. Starck, (late of Germany,) and Rev. T. W. Sargent, (of the Methodist Episcopal Church,) report respectfully, that they have met them several times, and examined them on the several subjects prescribed in the Constitution and are satisfied that their qualifications are creditable, we therefore cheerfully recommend them for licensure.

Item Second—Your committee would likewise state, that Mr. B. E. Hills be recommended to study another year under the care of Rev. H. Wells, and present himself at the next meeting of our Synod for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

D. SMITH,
D. S. ALTMAN,
H. WELLS.

The above report was accepted and adopted.

On motion,

Bro. J. C. D. Starck, and T. W. Sargent were Licensed for one year.

On motion ordered,

That the following Licentiates : A. F. Hills, J. Keller, G. A. Exline, S. P. Snyder, J. Geiger, and A. H. Scherer, be ordained this evening.

On motion,

Ministerium adjourned.—Prayer by Rev. H. Wells.

FIFTH SESSION.

SEPTEMBER 28th, 4 o'clock, P. M.

Ministerium met.—Prayer by Rev. D. Smith.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion,

The Licence of Bro. Summers was continued to the next annual meeting of this Synod.

On motion,

Ministerium adjourned to the time and place of the next Synodical Convention.

Prayer by Rev. S. McReynolds.

O. BROWN, *Secretary*.

PASTORS.

PASTORS.	Churches.	Stations.	Infants.	Adults.	Confirmations.	Admitted by let.	Communicants.	Rem. by death.	Rem. by letter.	Rem. by expuls.	Sund. Schools.	Scholars.	Prayer meetings.	Col. for Synod.	Home Missions.	For. Missions.	Education.	Local purposes.	Post Office Address.
Rev. H. Wells,	3	2	10	3	5	3	80		1		1		2	\$5.00	\$32.80			800.00	Columbia, Ind.
" D. Smith, } Sup-	1		4			25	25					50	1					600.00	Louisville, Ky.
" Do. } plies.	2		9		3	4	85				2	40	3	2.00	8.85			300.00	Laneville, Ind.
" S. McReynolds,	6	2	10	15	22	24	149			1	1	40	1	5.00	47.00			40.00	Camden, Ind.
" O. Brown,	2	1	6	1	12	9	80			1				10.00					Lafayette, Ind.
" D. S. Altman,	-	7	16	10	37	3	57	2			3	160	2	2.00	16.00			25.00	Richmond, Ind.
" E. R. Guiney,	-	1	4			2	80				2	125	2	3.00	10.00				Indianapolis, Ind.
" A. F. Hills,	-	2	4	2	3		110			6	1	35	3	10.00	15.00				Indianapolis, Ind.
" S. P. Snyder,	-	4	17	4	12	12	117		1	1	2	45	4	2.00	5.50			212.00	Scharlottsv., Ind.
" J. Keller,	-	4	30	5	7	9	106	1	1	1	2	140	2	2.50	10.00		10.00	6.00	Columbus, Ind.
" J. Geiger,	-	2	2		4	11	70	1	7	4	1	84	2	4.50	37.60				Indianapolis, Ind.
" A. H. Scherer,	-	2	12		9	3	42		1	1	2	160	1	00.50	3.00				New London, Ind.
" S. Sayford,	-	2	4			8	44	1	4		2		2	3.00	12.00	1.00			Middletown, Ind.
" D. Summers	-	3	2					2		4		100	2	4.00	5.00				Jefferson, Ky.
" G. A. Exline	-	1	5	26	29	20	39				2		1	1.33	14.00				Ber'n Springs, M.
Columbia Charge,	-	1												00.70	11.00				
Bethel Charge,	-	2																	
N. Manchester Charge	-																		
Total	38	24	135	66	135	133	1084	7	14	16	21	979	26	55.53	227.75	5.00	10.00	1933.00	

APPENDIX NO. "A."

On motion, of Synod, a Subscription was opened for annual membership in the Society of H. Evangelization.

<i>Life Members.</i>		<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Credits.</i>
Rev. H. Wells,	- - - - -	\$10 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ S. McReynolds,	- - - - -	10 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ S. P. Snyder,	- - - - -	10 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ J. Geiger,	- - - - -	10 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ G. A. Exline	- - - - -	10 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ J. Keller,	- - - - -	15 00 - - - - -	- - - - -
<i>Annual Members.</i>			
Rev. D. Smith,	- - - - -	\$1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ O. Brown,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ D. S. Altman,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ E. R. Guiney,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ A. F. Hills,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ A. H. Scherer,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ D. Summers,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
MR. J. M. Shaver,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ G. Bausman,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ D. Schell,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ P. Brown,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ G. Baker,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ J. Miller,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ H. Rhoads	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ H. Price,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
Rev. J. C. D. Stark,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ T. W. Sargent,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ D. Reitzel,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
Mrs. Carolina B. Wells,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ Jane M. Altman,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ E. J. Snyder,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ Maria McReynolds,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ Maria A. Exline,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.
„ Virginia R. Guiney,	- - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	paid.

